

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

September 9, 2010

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO SOLICIT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR REVOCABLE PERMIT OR LEASE OF A PORTION OF KUAOKALA GAME MANAGEMENT AREA, OAHU, FOR CATTLE GRAZING FOR THE PURPOSES OF GAME BIRD HABITAT IMPROVEMENT; RENEW THE REVOCABLE PERMIT ISSUED TO DIAMOND K, LLC ON MONTH-TO-MONTH BASIS FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR; KUAOKALA, WAIALUA, OAHU; TMK (1) 6-9-003:PORTION 002

BACKGROUND:

A revocable permit for occupation of the Kuaokala Game Management Area (GMA), under management of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), has been utilized to authorize cattle grazing activities in the GMA for the purposes of controlling vegetation. The current permittee is Diamond K, LLC. The cattle grazing activities are a continuation of activities previously authorized by the Division, and are beneficial to DOFAW management for suppression of vegetation to maintain game bird habitat, reduce fuels for wildfire prevention, and keep roads, trails and fields open for the purposes of game bird production and hunting. DOFAW would like to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for cattle grazing in the area to allow competition for the grazing rights to the area on a lease basis, or to replace the existing revocable permit (RP).

LOCATION:

A portion of Government lands known as Kuaokala Game Management Area, TMK: (1) 6-9-003:por.002, consisting of approximately 300 acres (per attached map).

AREA:

300 acres, more or less.

ZONING:

State Land Use District: P1/P2
County of Honolulu: Agriculture

Conservation Service grazing plan for the area provides a prescription for grazing

TRUST LAND STATUS:

Section 5(b) lands of the Hawaii Admission Act.

DHHL 30% entitlement lands pursuant to the Hawaii State Constitution:
YES ___ NO X

CURRENT USE STATUS:

The area is managed as a GMA, with a primary focus on game bird management. Cattle grazing is utilized to maximize game bird habitat characteristics, and to provide access for public hunters.

CHARACTER OF USE:

The area is maintained to provide feeding, nesting, loafing and escape cover for introduced game birds. Rainwater catchment units are maintained to provide water for birds in this arid area. Feed is spread along roads seasonally to provide supplemental nutrition for game birds. A year-round predator-control program is in place to minimize predation on game birds by introduced cats, rats, mongooses and feral dogs. Roads and trails are maintained to provide access for management and public hunting. Cattle grazing is utilized to control vegetation to improve game bird habitat conditions, improve access to the area, and minimize the threat posed by wildland fire.

CHAPTER 343 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the "Exemption List for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii", reviewed and concurred upon by the Environmental Council and dated June 12, 2008, this land use is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to: Exemption Class No. 1: Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing; because the proposed action is for the purpose of operations, repairs or maintenance of existing facilities and topographical features, which include the mitigation of existing hazards (*fire*), and maintenance of game bird habitat, that involve negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing; and Exemption Class No. 4: Minor alterations in the conditions of the land, water, or vegetation; because the proposed action is for the purpose of minor alterations in the conditions of the vegetation in the area to maintain game bird habitat.

DISCUSSION:

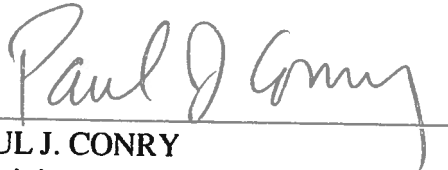
This area has a long history of cattle ranching. The Natural Resources that improves game bird habitat while minimizing erosion and other negative effects of running cattle. The RFP will provide an opportunity for individuals to bid on continuing the revocable permit use of the area or enter a lease for the grazing rights to the area under a strict set of guidelines meeting the best balance of bird habitat management and compatible grazing practices.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorize the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to solicit an RFP to lease a portion of Kuaokala Game Management Area for cattle grazing for the purpose of game bird habitat improvement, further subject to such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

Allow a revocable permit issued to Diamond K, LLC to continue on a month-to-month basis for an additional one year periods pursuant to 171-55, HRS or until a new lease or revocable permit can be executed.

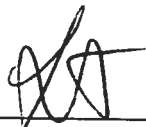
Respectfully submitted,



PAUL J. CONRY
Administrator

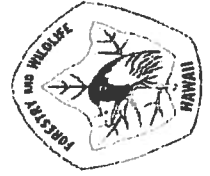
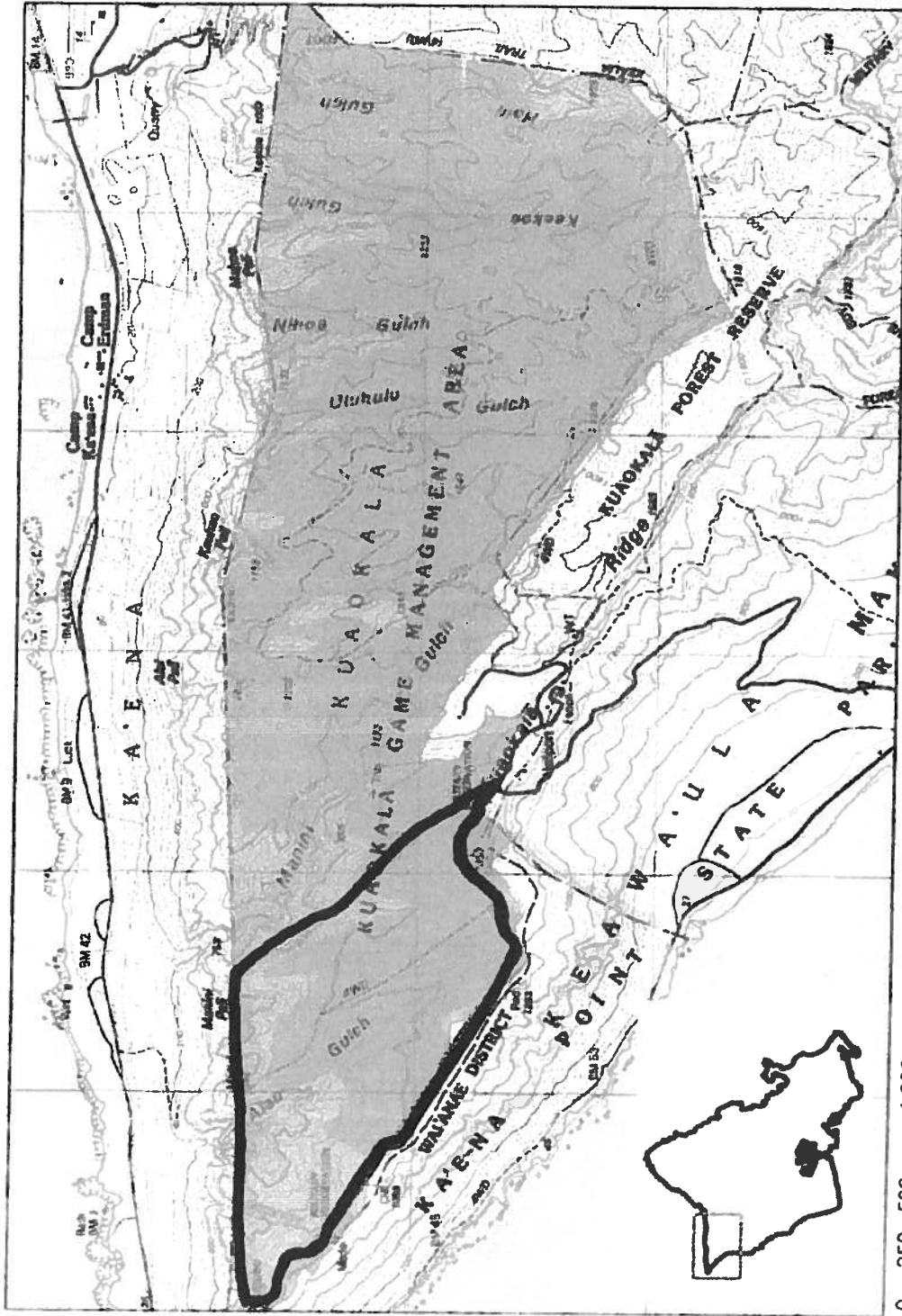
Attachment 1 (map)

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

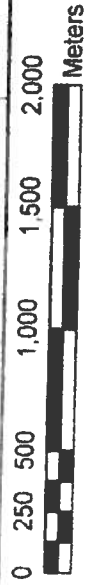


LAURA H. THIELEN, CHAIRPERSON
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Exhibit A: Kuaokala Game Management Area



DLNR-DOFAW July 19, 2010



Legend

Kuaokala GMA TMK: (1) 6-9-003-01

Kuaokala Trail

grazing area